

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-02 /148 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS JELEADER;JEL

APPROVED BY NEA/INS; DHKUX

EB/FSE:MCREEKMORE (SUBS)

EB/CBA:JNESVIG

COMMERCE/OIM/NESA:DHENDERSON(INFO

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P R 162220Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O.11652:NA

TAGS: BRТА, CE

SUBJECT: US COMPANY'S INTEREST IN SRI LANKA OIL DRILLING

1. ROBERT MCMURRAY, REPRESENTING ZAPATA COMPANY, INTENDS TRAVEL TO COLOMBO WEEK OF JULY 22 TO EXPLORE PROSPECTS FOR ZAPATA PARTICIPATION IN SRI LANKA OIL EXPLORATION EFFORTS. HE ALSO IS INTERESTED IN VISITING TRINCOMALEE. HE WOULD
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APPRECIATE BRIEFING FROM EMBASSY ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AND, IF USEFUL, ASSISTANCE IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS.

2. WE HAVE GIVEN MCMURRAY GENERAL BACKGROUND BRIEFING AND HE APPEARS SENSITIVE TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH GSL WOULD WEIGH IN ANY OIL COLLABORATION ARRANGEMENTS. HE IS AWARE OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES. MCMURRAY ALSO HAS TALKED WITH CEYLONSE EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER MELDER.

3. ZAPATA IS WELL-KNOWN PRODUCER OF OIL-DRILLING EQUIPMENT. MCMURRAY STATES IT NOW IS RESUMING OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITY.

4. MCMURRAY HAS ASKED CONFIRMATION THAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION CHAIRMAN COOMOARASWAMY WILL BE IN COLOMBO WEEK OF JULY 22. PLEASE CONFIRM BY JULY 17. ALSO IF POSSIBLE ADVISE IF SOVIET ARRANGEMENT WITH GSL IS EXCLUSIVE OR ONE WHICH ALLOWS SIMULTANEOUS EXPLORATION BY OTHER PARTIES. WE UNDERSTAND CANADIANS ARE NEGOTIATING FOR CONTRACT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, PETROLEUM, VISITS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE153795
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: INS JELEADER;JEL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740190-1094
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740744/aaaablio.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US COMPANY'S INTEREST IN SRI LANKA OIL DRILLING
TAGS: BTRA, ENRG, CE, (MCMURRAY, ROBERT)
To: COLOMBO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005